

# Valley Must Irrigate Immediately to Save Citrus Fruit Market

## SMALL CITRUS SPELLS RUIN TO 1931 CROP

A serious situation faces Valley citrus growers in the marketing of the current season's crop, according to veteran shippers of the Valley, who state that the Marsh seedless deal bids fair to prove most disastrous unless orchardists immediately irrigate citrus holdings.

To quote one of the old-time shippers:

"Not until we came to ship Marsh seedless did we realize how small the sizes of this variety of fruit was running. We knew the Duncan variety was running smaller than usual, but due to the fact that the Duncan was the first on the market, with the consequent early season demand, we paid little attention to the reasons underlying the smallness of the fruit."

**Large Fruit Rare**

"However, when we came to ship Marsh, we found that 96's or larger were rarities. In fact, one 40-acre orchard which we recently inspected promises to yield, under present conditions, less than 500 boxes of 96's or better."

"Rainfall has been below average for the past month or so, and growers have hesitated to irrigate. The result was inevitable. The size of fruit has suffered."

"Immediate irrigation will bring the fruit out but you cannot make it too strong, our growers must irrigate their orchards immediately, by the Marsh seedless deal is to be a success."

Florida, thoroughly familiar with Valley conditions, is not hesitating to capitalize on smallness of fruit now going to market from the section, and is doing everything in the power of its shippers to create a demand for the larger sizes, sizes which it knows the Valley growers cannot put on the market now, shippers state.

W. J. Schnurbusch, head of the U. S. weather bureau at Brownsville, tells the Herald that the Valley has not had a real soaking rain since October 1930 when 9 inches fell during the month.

As a natural result, the subsoil does not contain the usual amount of moisture, and it is from this subsoil moisture that the citrus trees derive their sustenance, Schnurbusch states.

Comparative rainfall figures for the past four years for September bear out the theory advanced by Valley shippers and by Schnurbusch.

**Rainfall Slight**

September rainfall as shown by the weather bureau records has been as follows: 1.43 inches, 1931; 2.80 inches, 1930; 5.16 inches, 1929; 8.91 inches, 1928 and 4.82 inches in 1927.

July and August rainfall in 1931 compares favorably with the record of previous years the weather bureau records show.

However, Schnurbusch raises another point which will be of great importance to the citrus growers in the subsoil moisture this year.

"Growers have not irrigated their orchards during the past summer as often as they did in previous years, and when they have irrigated, they have not put as much water on the land as they used to," he states.

This theory of less irrigation is born out by the bureau records of the stages of the Rio Grande during the past summer months. The river has averaged con-

## MISTRIAL



A mistrial was declared in the \$750,000 suit filed by Mary Astor, film star, as a result of the plane crash in which her husband, Kenneth Hawks, was killed. It was found that the husband of a jurywoman had tried to borrow money from the defendant.

sistently higher this summer than in any summer for the past several years, Schnurbusch says his records show. The weather observer accounts for this high stage by saying that veteran irrigation company officials who have known the river and its varying stages for 20 to 30 years, all say that there has been less pumping during the past summer than during any summer since the present stage of Valley development was reached.

"People just have not been irrigating until it was absolutely necessary and in some cases not even then," Schnurbusch states.

Resulting effects from this cessation of irrigation have been the same as the resulting effects of the scant rainfall, subsoil moisture has been drained from the ground and has not been replaced.

**Not Too Late**

The bright spot in the picture of the Marsh seedless deal lies in this—immediate irrigation will bring the fruit up to the desired sizes. On this point all agree, shippers, weather observers, market experts and horticultural experts.

Practically none of the Marsh seedless crop is fully matured, and pouring water to the orchards right now will have the desired effect on practically the entire Marsh output shippers say.

"It may cost money to irrigate, but it is going to cost us a grapefruit crop if we do not irrigate," one shipper told the Herald during the past week. "We will have the fruit but will not know what to do with it for the sizes will be far below the demands of the market. Not only will this year's market be ruined as far as price is concerned, but the Valley grapefruit deal will feel the effect for years to come."

Summed up here is the situation.

The Valley crop is running to small sizes. The market demands the larger sizes and Florida is taking advantage of the plight of Valley growers. Irrigation at once will bring the fruit of the Valley to the proper size. These larger sizes can be sold. The smaller sizes cannot be sold. It's irrigate or....

## STATE MOVES TO RELIEVE UNEMPLOYED

AUSTIN, Oct. 17.—(P)—A variety of prescriptions for Texas unemployment had been collected today for ministration by a state-wide organization that has dedicated itself to a systematic study of the situation. The governor's committee for the relief of unemployment was created yesterday at a meeting of business and industrial leaders convoked by Gov. R. S. Sterling.

The governor was empowered to name a personnel of 100, the organization to make a thorough survey of the situation and apply its best efforts toward a panacea.

A long list of recommendations designed to ease the unemployment problem were adopted. These included shorter work day; a shorter work week; immediate expenditure of all available funds for public works; employment of only one member of a single family by state departments and all business enterprises where possible; prosecution by the federal government and congress of the rivers and harbors program; adoption of an eight-hour day and six day week for oil field employees; use of men instead of machines wherever possible; purchase of only Texas products, raw and finished; and division of work among employees by decreasing the number of hours rather than lay off workmen.

## CHURCH PARLEY ELECTS HEADS

(By Staff Correspondent)

SAN BENITO, Oct. 17.—Accomplishments of the First Methodist church during the past year were noted at the fourth quarterly conference held this week, including the fact that more than 25 percent of the present membership has been added during the past three years.

The financial standing was found good.

The following officers were elected for the new conference year:

Stewards—J. I. Horkman, Cecil Morris, A. L. Price, O. A. Kendrick, J. E. Thompson, D. M. Young, Ned C. Rigbee, R. L. Valentine, O. E. Guase, H. L. Alsmeyer, L. F. Gordon, T. S. Caswell, B. F. Neiderjohn, Paul Hornbeck, Sam Sparks, C. W. Sullivan, M. F. Benson, F. W. Fontenot, Russell Edwards. Recording steward—O. A. Kendrick. Trustees—F. B. Sublett, L. S. Witte, W. P. Drake, G. W. Houghling, A. L. Price, C. W. Sullivan, F. W. Burgess, E. L. Ramsey, Sam Sparks. Golden Cross director—Mrs. C. W. Sullivan. Chairman stewardship committee—Mrs. O. E. Gause. Sunday school superintendent—J. W. Fontenot. S. V. Neely Cecil Morris, T. S. Caswell. Adult superintendent—R. L. Valentine. Young people's division—Miss Zora Neiderjohn. Children's division—Mrs. W. S. Fairley.

**BITTER HONEY**

In the Ozark regions of Missouri and Arkansas, parts of Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama, the bitter-week, *Helenium tenuifolium*, yields plenty of golden honey to bees, but it is as bitter as quinine.

## Trouble Expected In Navy's Budget Slash

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17. (P)—The navy's curtailed budget estimate clipping millions from projected expenditures, probably is headed straight for rough weather.

An enormous proportion of the savings suggested by Secy. Adams and his admirals comes in shore activities, employing many men, supplying trade to many communities.

## CITY CHARITY SHOW PLANNED

(By Staff Correspondent)

HARLINGEN, Oct. 17.—Nine or more Harlingen merchants will participate in the style show to be held at the American Legion sports arena Wednesday night for benefit of charity.

Committees are hard at work planning the exhibition of models with various garments, music, and other entertainment.

All three service clubs are represented on the committees which have been named as follows: with R. H. Holloway as general chairman.

Enlistment—W. C. Crumley, chairman; Carl Ries, Monty Colvin. Entertainment—Rammell Anglin, chairman; Frank Davis, H. P. Pittman. Publicity—H. F. Looney, chairman; V. V. Pernoud, C. M. Hall. House—R. L. Hill, chairman; Mrs. Blanche Jones, Hugh Ramsey, Mrs. Annette Rammell, Mrs. Fulgham, William Trammell. Tickets—Juliah Ashheim, chairman; Harvey Oler, Tyre Brown, E. E. Rigney.

There will be no free list.

## New Store Opens

(By Staff Correspondent)

SAN BENITO, Oct. 17.—Open house was held Friday afternoon by the new City Cash Drug store located where Riley's Pharmacy formerly was in the Garrison Bldg. on S. Sam Houston Blvd.

Tom E. Marchbanks, who resigned recently as manager of the Taylor Lumber Co., is manager of the new store and W. Randy Symonds will be in charge of the prescription department. Others to be connected with the store are: J. L. Miller of Dallas who will have charge of the fountain and Miss Mary Frances Marchbanks who will manage the tobacco counter. Mrs. Marchbanks will assist her husband.

## BISHOP TO VISIT

SAN BENITO, Oct. 17.—The Rev. Irving P. Johnson of Denver, bishop of Colorado, plans to visit with his brother, Rev. W. Everett Johnson, rector of All Saints' Church and be in charge of the services next Sunday.

## NEW CITIZEN

HARLINGEN—Born to Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Caloway of Lyford, a boy weighing nine pounds.

ties. Members of congress normally set up a great clamor any time that kind of cut is proposed around their home towns.

## Abandonments Stated

Some of the shore activities slated for abandonment are of a type the navy will gladly lose. The going of others wrings the heart of many a bluff and hearty admiral.

When the naval budget cut off the navy yards at Boston and Charleston, South Carolina, it aimed at two expenditures long on the naval list for abandonment. They and others of the type had come to be known in naval circles, and to some extent outside, as "political" yards. Often proposed for extinction, consent never has been obtained from congress.

## Changes May Be Made

Now the admirals have put that problem up to the president, and if he passes it, to congress. Mr. Hoover has not yet said the suggested economies would pass the budget bureau unchanged. In fact, his latest comment on the subject was that no one could say just what would be presented to congress.

Besides the yards, radio stations and other depots listed for abandonment the navy has slashed off numerous bands, much valued by cities which do not support their own. It has cancelled the tour of the U. S. S. Constitution which was to yield gala days to many a port.

## CITRUS PLANT TO OPEN SOON

(By Staff Correspondent)

HARLINGEN, Oct. 17.—The first carload of citrus fruit probably will be shipped from the Harlingen plant of the Texas Citrus Fruit Growers' exchange about Nov. 1, according to E. B. Malles, manager.

It at first was thought that this new plant would be ready about the middle of October.

Machinery is being installed and finishing touches are being given the building in which it is located near the Southern Pacific passenger station.

This is the second new plant to be put into operation by the T. C. F. this season, the one at San Carlos having started moving fruit about two weeks ago.

The exchange also built an addition to its Sharyland plant. Older plants are located at Mercedes, La Feria, San Benito, and Val Verde. Fruit also is being packed at a temporary location at Brownsville in the old rice mill.

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## DRYS CHARGE MONEY KINGS IN WET DRIVE

DALLAS, Oct. 17. (P)—The board of managers of the Anti-Saloon league of Texas, meeting here today, issued a statement asserting the conviction that "certain wet money kings" have entered into a conspiracy to "take advantage of and perpetuate the present depressed financial situation in order to aid them in their fight against prohibition."

## Conspiracy Charged

"We believe wets of both political parties have conspired thus," the statement declared, "to capitalize on our financial conditions with a view to use such conditions as a plea before congress and during the national elections of 1932 in the interest of their nefarious plans to destroy this law. In doing this they are heartlessly taking bread and clothing from millions and deserve the unstinted condemnation of all right-thinking people."

## Fight Argument

The league statement declared the argument that the return of beer and wine would give employment to a million and a quarter men "is not supported by the records of men employed in the traffic when it did exist. The total number thus employed by the entire liquor traffic and allied trade, when at its peak in 1914, was less than half a million. If the traffic is permitted to return to the extent that they claim, it will, if permitted, take five billions of dollars out of other lines of trade and throw out of employment anywhere from five to ten where it gives employment to one."

## TEETH INDEX TO BRAIN

Dr. G. Elliot Smith, famous professor of anatomy at a British college, expresses the belief that while brains grow, teeth rest, and man pays with weak and crooked teeth for a better brain.

## FREE PEACHES!



All the peaches you can carry are yours for the asking around Washingtonville, O., where a bumper crop has catapulted the price so low orchard owners have announced they're not worth picking. Here's Edna Coy, 19 in the heart of the peach district, tasting one, and offering you as many as you want.

## Pair Is Indicted

DALLAS, Oct. 17. (P)—Buford Armstrong and H. H. Barker, arrested 10 days ago at Eastland by Dallas detectives were indicted by the grand jury today on charges of robbery with firearms.

They were alleged to have held up and robbed J. E. Blackwell of a diamond ring and stud worth \$1,900 Oct. 2, when he went with them to show them a rent house.

## Cops Suspended

DALLAS, Oct. 17. (P)—Police Chief Claude Trammell said today two Dallas policemen had been suspended temporarily from service while he investigated accusations they had taken bribes after raids made by them during the time they were off duty.

## Rebels Kill Troops

MEXICO CITY, Oct. 17. (P)—Twenty five federal soldiers were killed or wounded near Ixhuatlan, state of Vera Cruz, in an engagement with an unidentified rebel band, a dispatch to Excelsior said today.

The mayor of Ixhuatlan asked federal support, it was said, and twenty five soldiers advanced to meet the band, but were ambushed.

## Texas Boy Killed

MEMPHIS, Oct. 17. (P)—Olin Stephens, 15, was killed on the Memphis - Lakeview highway last night when hit by a truck he tried to signal for assistance after his car had broken down. Homer Fall, driver of the truck, ploughed the machine into a ditch and overturned in an effort to avoid hitting the youth.

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